

Geoff Crompton: Playing the Numbers Game

Profile by Matthew Elston.

After speaking to Geoff, I was intrigued to know whether any one person could possibly know anymore about Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club! This bloke's head is jam-packed full of incredible memories from a lifetime of cricket and it's positively bursting to get out. The only problem is there's just too much for him to say.

Geoff is a walking statistician. If he doesn't know the year a game happened, who was involved and why it was significant to Skelmanthorpe, there's little or no point asking anyone else. In a cricketing career spanning 42 years, every minute detail has been absorbed and stored in a walking, talking scorebook.



Like many older players, Geoff has fond memories of successful years past. Since his debut, aged 16, against Rowley Hill, Geoff has played in the Huddersfield Central and Huddersfield leagues, seen the infamous Allsop Cup years come and go, and been involved in "the summit of the club's achievements" - the successful 1990 Sykes Cup campaign.

The stalwart stumper considers himself fortunate to have been the captain of the SCC 1st XI for a staggering 13 years during which he never missed a single game, something he is understandably proud of. "When I was captain I was captain! Nobody else captained another game." He has also been the bar treasurer since 1975.

Geoff is a dedicated sportsman who seems to have a love for being outdoors and getting involved in a team environment. He has turned his hand, quite successfully, to other sports outside cricket, mainly Rugby League. He has represented West Yorkshire at amateur level and speaks just as fondly of his rugby achievements as his cricket. "I played Rugby League at a good level throughout the 1960s and it came before cricket".

Clearly, this guy loves his cricket. His knowledge is overwhelming, as is his willingness to share the successes of his club with anyone who shows even the slightest interest.